

Washington, DC –Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) announced today his nomination of labor advocate Verna Porter, a resident of Northeast Portland, to the Advisory Committee of the White House Conference on Aging.

“Verna has spent a lifetime serving the best interests of seniors and labor,” Blumenauer said. “I am confident she will provide valuable insight to this conference.”

The once-a-decade conference is intended to make policy recommendations to the president on issues such as health, independence and economic security for seniors. With the baby boom generation preparing for retirement and the growing debate about Social Security reform, the 2005 conference has taken on extra significance.

Over the past 40 years, these conferences have been catalysts in changing retirement, health care, transportation and housing policy, and Blumenauer believes Porter will help contribute ideas for the next 40 years.

Porter, a North Dakota native, was a teacher before completing two years towards a degree in sociology and going to nursing school. She specialized in geriatrics during her 20 year career as a Registered Nurse. Upon retirement in 1995, she became an advocate for the working poor, people with disabilities and the elderly. Porter is currently the president of the Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans.

“Representing these groups in our state legislature has been a very rewarding experience,” Porter said.

Previous White House Conferences on Aging were held in 1961, 1971, 1981, and 1995. This year’s conference will be held October 23-26, 2005 in Washington, D.C.